

Poverty Initiative Action Group  
Food Committee  
February 2, 2009

Increase Food Security

Ideas:

1. Funders are looking for specific ways to help meet basic needs, e.g.:
  - Donate food
  - Sort food
  - Deliver food to pantries
  - Help manage pantries
2. Food pantries need help with distribution
3. Inventory existing food pantries; map locations and identify gaps in community
4. Create food pantry council to share information and support
5. Build capacity of food pantries to operate and store perishable foods.
6. Purchase and equip mobile pantry to serve metro area.
7. Don't just focus on short-term crisis; look for sustainable solutions to food inaccess, cost of being poor with regard to procuring healthy food.
8. Research successful models to reduce food insecurity, access to healthy foods.
9. Provide education about improving diet, increasing consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables.
10. Advocate for increased free breakfast and lunch at public schools.
11. Advocate to improve school food environment

Next Steps:

1. Conduct research on gaps in food assistance, particularly food pantries.
  - Map data using GIS mapping (contact David Padgett @ TSU or Blaine Ray @ NRC).
  - Look at Food Security Partners' Food Asset Map
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2. Identify successful models for increasing access to healthy foods in food insecure neighborhoods.
3. Mobilize resources to address immediate needs.
  - Local funders can own and operate services, e.g., mobile pantry. United Way could help with identifying corporate partners, developing marketing/communications.
  - Tap into student volunteers. Create Nashville Universities Against Hunger (service learning programs, service organizations). Job descriptions, supervision needed. Who will organize and manage?